Application No. 09/753,002 Amendment dated March 1, 2004 Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21 and ending on page 2, line 5 and replace with the following:

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In this case, although the distance to the main object to be focused is determined from [[the]] measurement information, the measurement data are not necessarily measurement data having high reliability. For example, United States Patent Application-No. 5,068,737 discloses art which accomplishes focus adjustment using data having high reliability as a method of focus adjustment in these cases. In addition, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 11-119088 discloses a focus adjustment method for focusing when data reliability is low.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 1 and ending on page 17, line 13 and replace with the following:

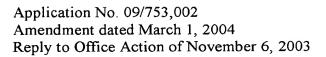


First, the data processing circuit 100 reads the output data of the sensor 114 from the distance measuring module 110 (#10), and executes the distance measuring calculation for a specific number N of measuring points (#12). Then, the distance data D(i) is calculated for the no. i ([[1]] i=2~N) measuring point. Then, the reliability of the distance data D(i) is determined for a specific number N of measuring points (#14), and OK (reliable) or NG (unreliable) is set for the reliability flag (i) of the distance data corresponding to the no. i measuring point. The luminance near each measuring point is detected (#16), and the luminance data B(i) is determined for the no. i measuring point.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 24 and ending on page 18, line 6 and replace with the following:



If the data of the no. i measuring point are reliable (#20: NO), the reliability of the no. i-1 measuring point is determined (#30). If the data are reliable (#30:



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NO), the routine advances to the previously described #24. If the data are unreliable (#30: YES), the unmeasurable region end point parameter iEnd is set to [i-1] (#32), and the calculation below is executed.